

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A drive unit (2) of a drilling machine (1), the drive unit comprising:  
with

a drive having at least two drive wheels (27, 37) being provided in a drive housing (6) and at least one endless drive (58, 59) being guided around the drive wheels, characterized in that

wherein the drive housing in the area of at least one of the drive wheels comprises at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) which extends over a circumferential section (67, 68) of the drive wheel near the drive wheel, and

wherein the at least one bay-like bulge is provided at a side of the drive housing and is a projection projecting from said side.

2. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 18) is provided at both longitudinal sides (13, 14) of the drive housing (6).

3. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to any one of claims 1 or 2 claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12, 17, 17, 18) extends approximately arcuately near at least one of the drive wheel wheels (27, 37).

4. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) in its extension near the drive wheel (27, 37) is narrower in portions and extends at least towards a housing center (64) in funnel-like fashion spaced apart from the drive wheel.

5. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein an inner radius (60) of the at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12) is larger than an outer radius (55) of the drive wheel (27) and is eccentric thereto.

6. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) extends spaced-apart from the drive wheel (27, 37) at a distance between about 5 mm and about 65 mm, preferably between 8 mm and 28 mm.

7. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) extends on a circumferential portion (67, 68) between about 30° and about 130°, preferably about 90°, of the drive wheel (27, 37) near said wheel.
8. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one bay-like bulge (11) is provided on one of an upper and/or and a lower side (24, 25) of a roof-like transition portion (22, 23), which establishes a transition between an outer portion (21) of the bulge (11) extending along the circumference of the drive wheel (27) and the portion (26) of the drive housing (6) adjoining the bulge.
9. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein the transition portion (22, 23) is shaped in the form of a conical surface at least sectionwise.
10. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to ~~any one of claims 8 or 9~~ claim 8, characterized in that wherein the drive housing (6) is divided at least sectionwise, the division being provided in the area of the at least one bay-like bulge (11) above the transition portion (23) of the lower side (25) of the bulge (11).
11. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein an upper member (42) of the drive housing (6) is pivotable to a face (20) of the drive housing.
12. (Currently amended) The drive unit according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein a rib-like profile (82) is provided on an inner housing side (70) of the at least one bay-like bulge (11).
13. (Currently amended) A drilling machine (1) comprising a drive unit (2) according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.
14. (New) The drive unit according to claim 2, wherein the at least one bay-like bulge extends approximately arcuately near at least one of the drive wheels.

15. (New) The drive unit according to claim 1, wherein the at least one bay-like bulge extends spaced-apart from the drive wheel at a distance between about 8 mm and about 28 mm.

16. (New) The drive unit according to claim 1, wherein the at least one bay-like bulge extends on a circumferential portion about 90° of the drive wheel near said wheel.

17. (New) The drive unit according to claim 9, wherein the drive housing is divided at least sectionwise, the division being provided in the area of the bulge above the transition portion of the lower side of the bulge.